

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

**401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850**

MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2009

7:55 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Jane Hobdy
Chandra Walker Holloway
Resa Levy
Wilma Holmes
Jaclyn R. Lichter
Ivonne C. Lindley
Leticia Mederos
Larniece McKoy Moore
Manar Morales
Regina L. Oldak
Sanjay Rai
Jocelyn Samuels

STAFF

Ruby V. Marcelo
Paula S. Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

GUEST

Selena Mendy Singleton, District Director
for Congresswoman Donna Edwards

I. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES..... President Lichter

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 p.m. by President Lichter.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Lindley and seconded by Commissioner Atterbeary, the Agenda was unanimously approved as presented.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Atterbeary and seconded by Commissioner Aridi Afas, the Minutes of the August 26, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT..... President Lichter

A. Hospital Proposals

B. Bylaws Revision

C. Approval of 2009-10 CFW Work Plan

On July 30, 2009, President Lichter was one of four panelists interviewed for Cable Channel 21's *Montgomery Week in Review*. President Lichter discussed the CFW and the Mothers and Poverty Agenda for Action report.

D. Community Service Day Project

Community Service Day is October 24, 2009. For the past 2 years, CFW contributed books for the children's libraries at the Betty Anne Krahne Center and the Family Justice Center. Commissioner Holloway Walker offered to coordinate this year's project. Following discussion of different project ideas, Commissioner Holloway Walker moved that CFW support the Flower Valley Elementary School Halloween parade as its Community Service Day project. Commissioner Holmes, who is also the Principal of the school, said that every year, the children march in a costume parade and collect pennies for the homeless. She said that often, there are low-income children who do not have costumes. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Holmes will provide Commissioner Holloway Walker with criteria for the costume project and these guidelines will be provided to commissioners at the September 23, 2009 CFW meeting. Commissioners can then bring their donated costumes and bags for the children to collect treats to the October 28, 2009 CFW meeting.

E. CFW Vice Presidential Candidates

Notice of Intent to Run forms for CFW Vice President were distributed to commissioners in the July meeting agenda packets and are now due back. Commissioner Atterbeary has submitted an Intent to Run for 1st Vice President and Commissioner Lindley for 2nd Vice President. The election for CFW's vice presidents will be held at the September 23, 2009 CFW meeting. Nominations from the floor can also be accepted at that meeting.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – No report.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – No report.

V. STAFF REPORT.....Vaughan-Prather

A. FY09 Annual Report

Staff is working on the first draft of the FY09 Annual Report and hopes to send it to the printer by the September CFW meeting. Drafts of CFW's committee's reports will be sent to the committee chairs for their review.

B. Divorce Guidebook

Staff is working closely with Commissioner Lindley on the Spanish language version of "A Women's Guide to Surviving the Legal Process of Separation and Divorce in Maryland."

C. School Readiness – Seasons of GivingRodgers

Thanks to the generosity of commissioners and staff, the Commission for Women collected \$135 in donations and with the additional supplies purchased by some staff, a very wonderful assortment of school supplies, including 13 backpacks, was given to the Family Services, Inc. program in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS/APPROVAL OF FY10 WORK PLANS

A. Mothers and Poverty Policy Agenda.....Hobdy

- (1) The Women's Advisory Network in Congressman Steny Hoyer's Office invited CFW to come and brief their staff on how the data for the MAP Agenda was collected. Staff is waiting to hear back from that office on a possible date in September.

- (2) CFW signed on to the Healthy Families Act.
- (3) CFW received a wonderful letter from Chief of Police Tom Manger complimenting the MAP Report. A copy of his letter was included in the meeting packet. Chief Manger said that the Report was insightful and compelling and a “must-read” for every elected official. CFW will write a thank you memo to Chief Manger with copies to go to the County Executive and Chief Administrative Officer.
- (4) On July 30, the Governor’s Secretary of Appointments, Jean Hitchcock, met with representatives of various county boards, committees, and commissions. Commissioner Hobdy and Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo attended the meeting and shared the Commission’s MAP Report and other CFW projects.
- (5) On August 24, 2009, Commissioner Hobdy and Executive Director Vaughan-Prather attended a meeting convened by Councilwoman Trachtenberg to discuss how the county might address the economic issues confronting women who are poor. Other County officials were also in attendance, including Uma Ahluwalia, Bruce Adams, Steve Silverman and Katie Knowles. The group plans to reconvene at a later date. There also may be an opportunity for CFW and Montgomery College to co-host a symposium in the future on the issue of poverty.
- (6) The FY10 MAPPA Work Plan was presented to commissioners for review and discussion. Changes to the plan were made and upon the motion made by Commissioner Samuels and seconded by Commissioner Levy, the FY10 MAPPA Work Plan was approved as amended.

B. Womens’ Legislative Briefing.....Atterbeary

The first WLB Planning meeting will be September 2, 2009 at the White Oak Library. There are already seven co-sponsors for the 2010 Briefing. Commissioners are encouraged to get their endorsing organizations and any other organizations they belong to serve as co-sponsors of the 2010 WLB. Budget/Legislative Specialist Marcelo will email the co-sponsorship form to commissioners.

C. Conference Agenda Planning CommitteeAridi Afas

- (1) The Committee met this evening and revised the FY10 Work Plan that was originally distributed to commissioners in the agenda packet. Those revisions were then distributed. Commissioner Atterbeary moved that the FY10 Work Plan (as revised) be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lindley and unanimously approved.

- (2) Plans are underway for the 2010 NACW Conference. The theme, “_____” is focused on women’s commissions thriving; not just surviving, and the idea was borrowed from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. (See Item V. (G) below).

The hoped for dates of the national conference are July 22-29, 2010 and the CAP Committee is working with an organization that helps non-profit groups locate and get the best deals on hotels. Commissioner Aridi Afas anticipates the cost of the conference will likely be around \$40,000; however, the plan is to make it cost-neutral to MCCFW and hopefully raise money for NACW. Every MCCFW commissioner’s help will be necessary in order to raise funds and help identify workshop speakers, and conference co-sponsors.

- (3) The Committee is planning to meet on each Wednesday preceding the full CFW meetings and it was proposed that its meetings could run from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and then start the CFW meetings at 7:30 p.m. The CFW meetings would still adjourn at 9 p.m. Commissioner Aridi Afas moved that the CFW meeting schedule for the FY10 year be changed to begin at 7:30 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Commissioner McKoy Moore and unanimously approved. The CAP Committee will also hold meetings by conference call.
- (4) Commissioner Samuels agreed to help plan a visit to Capitol Hill or another type of tour, e.g., to the Department of Justice, for the conference attendees. Commissioner Atterbeary agreed to help with this planning. Commissioner Mederos will be asked to lend her support as well.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Family Justice Center/DVCC.....Levy

The Board is continuing to grow and has raised significant amounts of cash as well as in-kind contributions such as pro-bono services. The Board has partnered with “Women Who Care Ministries,” an organization that collects and donates up to \$150 in food for the Family Justice Center’s pantry. Former Congresswoman Connie Morella is on the Advisory Board.

- B. Teen Dating ConferenceLevy

Judge Marielsa Bernard is organizing a conference on dating violence titled “*Choose Respect, Montgomery*” taking place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 14, 2009 at Montgomery College’s Rockville Campus. The Conference is a free event. Legislative/Budget Specialist Marcelo is representing CFW on the planning committee which is focusing on the issues and defining what is teen dating violence.

- C. BPW Women of Achievement - No report at this time.

- D. MLAWAtterbeary / Lichter

MLAW's Fall Agenda Conference will be October 17, 2009, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Montgomery Education Association in Rockville. A panel on effective advocacy will be offered, as well as an optional afternoon session. This is the conference in which legislative issues are presented. The MCCFW's legislative priorities will be presented and voted on at the Commission's September 23, 2009 meeting in order to forward recommendations to MLAW.

Staff will share information about MLAW's conference with the WLB Planning Committee.

- E. Reproductive Health Care Work Group - No report at this time.

- F. Teen Pregnancy Prevention – No report at this time

- G. NACWVaughan-Prather

The NACW Video Teleconference that took place August 20, 2010 was excellent! The webcast featured Rachel Scott, Administrator of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, who presented insightful survival strategies for women's commissions. The workshop will soon be available to view online.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS – No announcements at this time.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

**Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women**

CFW ACTION AND FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

<input type="checkbox"/>	1.	Staff will resubmit nominations for the Maryland CFW Hall of Fame for Irene Morgan Kirkaldy, Margaret Chase Smith and Barbara Fritchie.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2.	Commissioner Holmes will provide Commissioner Holloway Walker with criteria for the costume project and these guidelines will be provided to commissioners at the September 23, 2009 CFW meeting. Commissioners can then bring their donated costumes and bags for the children to collect treats to the October 28, 2009 CFW meeting.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.	Drafts of CFW's individual committee reports for the FY09 Annual Report will be sent to the committee chair for review.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.	CFW will write a thank you memo to Chief Manger for his letter complimenting the MAP Report. Copies to go to the County Executive and Chief Administrative Officer.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.	Commissioners are encouraged to get their endorsing organizations and any other organizations they belong to serve as co-sponsors of the 2010 WLB. Budget/Legislative Specialist Marcelo will email the co-sponsorship form to commissioners.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6.	<p><u>2010 NACW Conference</u> - The hoped for dates are July 22-29, 2010. Commissioner Aridi Afas anticipates the cost of the conference will likely be around \$40,000; however, the plan is to make it cost-neutral to MCCFW and hopefully raise money for NACW. Every commissioner's help will be necessary in order to raise funds and help identify workshop speakers and conference co-sponsors.</p> <p>Executive Director Vaughan-Prather will send NACW's letter of approval to Irene Angelos.</p> <p>The CFW meeting schedule for the FY10 year is changed to begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.</p> <p>Commissioner Samuels agreed to help plan a visit to Capitol Hill or another type of tour, e.g., to the Department of Justice, for the conference attendees. Commissioner Atterbeary agreed to help with this planning. Commissioner Mederos will be asked to lend her support as well.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	7.	<p>CFW's legislative priorities will be presented and voted on at the Commission's September 23, 2009 meeting in order to forward recommendations to MLAW.</p> <p>Staff will share information about MLAW's conference with the WLB Planning Committee.</p>